

ALLOCATING NETWORK RESOURCES**ABSTRACT**

A network resource is allocated to a data path by determining if a sufficient amount of the network resource is available in a network path to accommodate the data path, and obtaining a cost associated with using the network resource available in the network path for the data path. It is decided whether to allocate the network resource in the network path to the data path based on the amount of the network resource and the cost associated with using the network resource. One representative example of the data path is a label switched path (LSP) on a multiprotocol label switching (MPLS) network.

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